

MANUAL OF BUDDHISM,

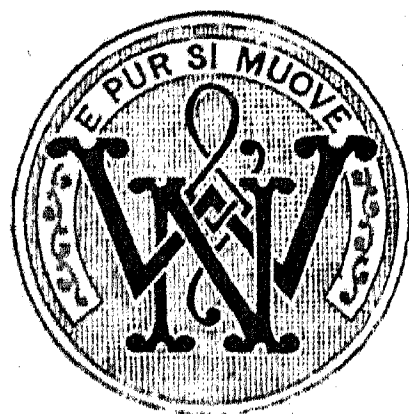
IN ITS MODERN DEVELOPMENT;

TRANSLATED FROM SINGHALESE MSS.

BY R. SPENCE HARDY,

AUTHOR OF "EASTERN MONACHISM," "DEWA-DHARMA-DARPANAYA," ETC.

SECOND EDITION.



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PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

THE present volume having been out of print for some time, the demand for it, however, still being so great that copies have been sold in public sales for several pounds, the publishers have been induced to reprint a small edition of the work. They have taken the opportunity of correcting a few errors, and adding a much more complete Index, which has been kindly compiled by Dr. Frankfurter of Berlin, who is pursuing Pali studies in London. In every other respect the present is an exact reproduction of the first edition.

March, 1880.

P R E F A C E .

IN the preparation of the present Manual, I have kept one object steadily in view. It has been my simple aim, to answer the question, "What is Buddhism, as it is now professed by its myriads of votaries?" A deep interest in the subject; intense application; honesty of purpose; a long residence in a country where the system is professed; a daily use of the language from which I have principally translated; and constancy of intercourse with the sramana priests; have been my personal advantages to aid me in the undertaking. In nearly all other respects, the circumstances in which I have been placed have been unfavourable. Throughout the whole course of my investigations, I have had to exercise a laborious ministry; with the exception of one brief interval, I have been at a distance from any public library; I have received no assistance from any society, literary or religious, though that assistance has not been unasked; my acquaintance with the lore of Europe is limited; and I have had little or no access to recent publications on subjects of Asiatic literature. I have been charged by my friends, with great temerity in risking, unaided, the publication of the present work; but the same spirit that animated me to pursue my task, year after year,

field in which it was once my privilege to labour, this Manual will be received, I doubt not, as a boon ; as it will enable them more readily to understand the system they are endeavouring to supersede, by the establishment of the Truth. I see before me, looming in the distance, a glorious vision, in which the lands of the east are presented in majesty ; happy, holy, and free. I may not ; I dare not, attempt to describe it ; but it is the joy of my existence to have been an instrument, in a degree however feeble, to bring about this grand consummation. And now, my book, we part ; but it shall not be without a fervent prayer that God may speed thee.

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